

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

June 21, 2010

The Honorable Álvaro Colom Caballeros  
Presidente de la República de Guatemala  
Casa Presidencial  
6 avenida 4-41 zona 1,  
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala

Dear President Colom:

As members of the United States Congress, we represent hundreds of American families who entered into adoptions of Guatemalan children prior to the passage of Guatemala's adoption reform legislation in December 2007. As you know, a provision of this law allowed for families whose adoptions were in process as of December 2007 to continue processing their cases under the existing law. Since that time, a significant number of families have not only waited several years to complete these "grandfathered" adoptions but also are without clear guidance from appropriate government agencies on what steps are still required to resolve their cases. We write today to respectfully ask that you institute a transparent and predictable process for these pending American adoptions that will allow them to be resolved both fairly and expeditiously.

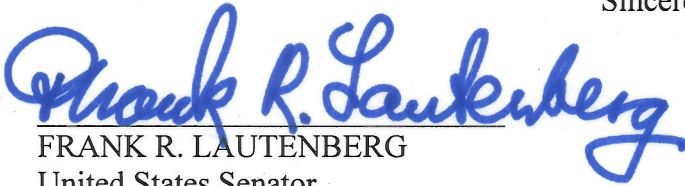
We applaud the Guatemalan government's efforts to reform the intercountry adoption system and we share your goal of ensuring that all children in Guatemala and their birth parents are protected from exploitation. We also recognize and appreciate that your government is working to review all aspects of every pending case in light of allegations of irregularities. In addition, we understand that certain cases are currently being decided by the Guatemalan judicial system and we fully respect the independence of your courts.

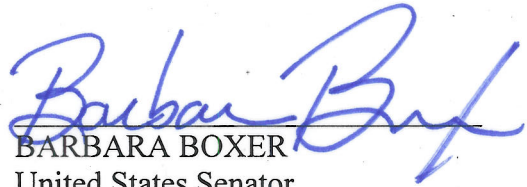
However, we remain concerned that approximately 400 American adoptions initiated under the old adoption laws have been subjected to inexplicable delays, new legal and procedural requirements, multiple field investigations and birth parent interviews. The lack of a transparent and predictable process has forced many children to remain in orphanages in Guatemala outside the care of a permanent family, which we fear could result in long-term physical, emotional, and psychological harm. Additionally, we are sure you can appreciate the substantial financial and emotional burden these inexplicable delays have had on the adoptive parents, many of whom have been providing assistance for foster care and support services in Guatemala.


We hope you agree that establishing a transparent and predictable process for all pending adoption cases is necessary to protect Guatemalan children, their birth parents, and adopting families. We believe it is possible to establish a process that is both thorough and fair and encourage you to take immediate steps toward the establishment of such a process.

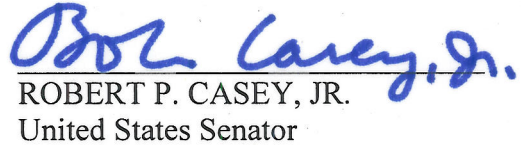
Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

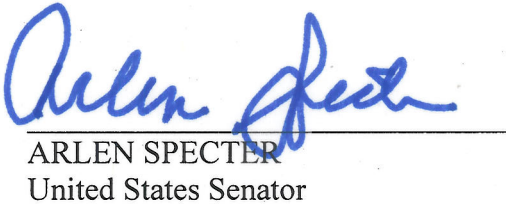
Sincerely,

  
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG  
United States Senator

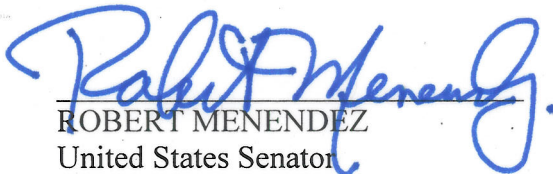
  
BARBARA BOXER  
United States Senator

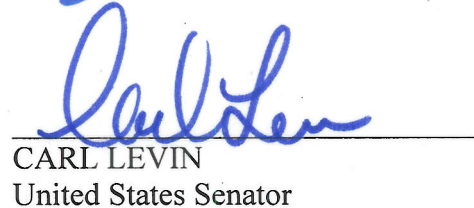
  
RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD  
United States Senator

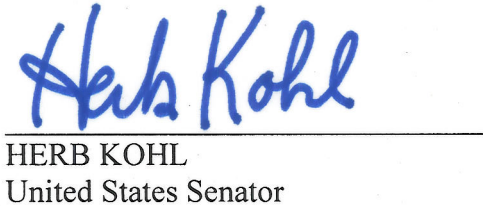
  
ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
United States Senator

  
ARLEN SPECTER  
United States Senator

  
MARY L. LANDRIEU  
United States Senator

  
ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator

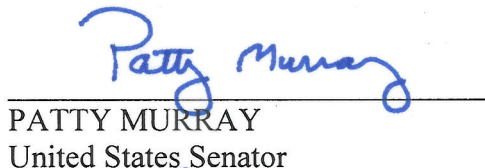
  
CARL LEVIN  
United States Senator

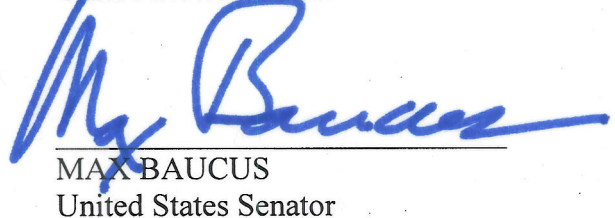
  
HERB KOHL  
United States Senator

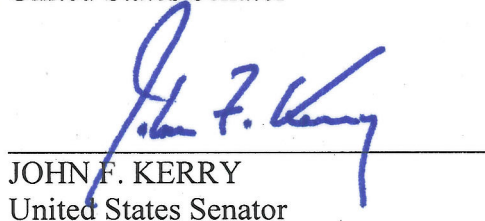
  
SAM BROWNBACK  
United States Senator

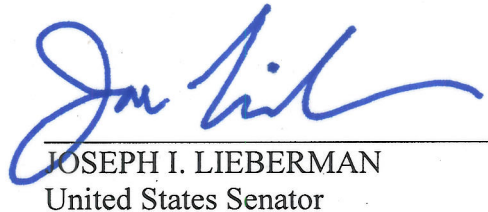
  
DEBBIE STABENOW  
United States Senator

  
BARBARA A. MIKULSKI  
United States Senator

  
PATTY MURRAY  
United States Senator

  
MAX BAUCUS  
United States Senator

  
JOHN F. KERRY  
United States Senator

  
JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN  
United States Senator





SHERROD BROWN  
United States Senator



AL FRANKEN  
United States Senator



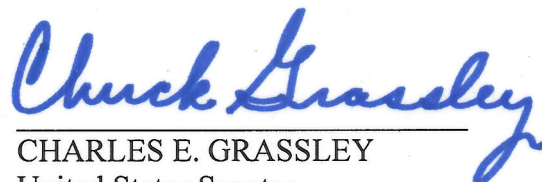
RICHARD J. DURBIN  
United States Senator



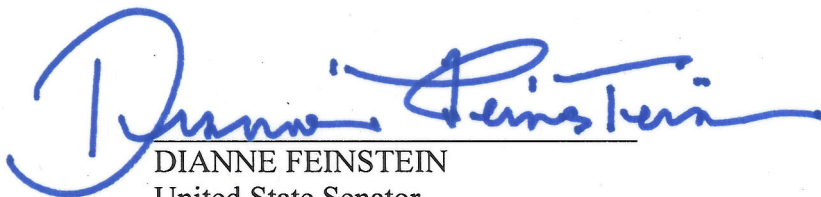
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN  
United States Senator



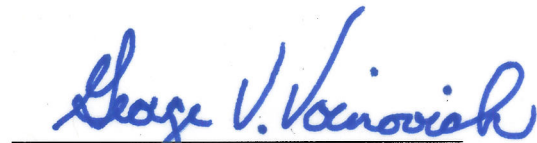
KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND  
United States Senator



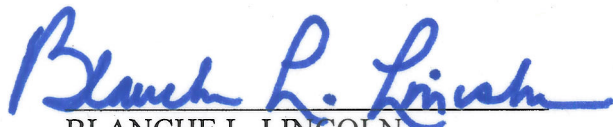
CHARLES E. GRASSLEY  
United States Senator



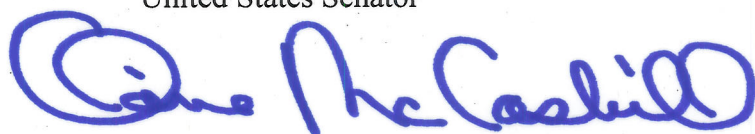
DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
United State Senator



GEORGE V. VOINOVICH  
United States Senator



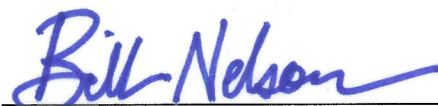
BLANCHE L. LINCOLN  
United States Senator



CLAIRE McCASKILL  
United States Senator



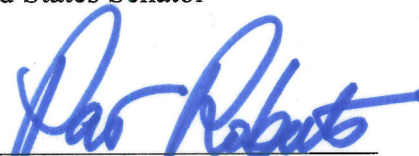
AMY KLOBUCHAR  
United States Senator



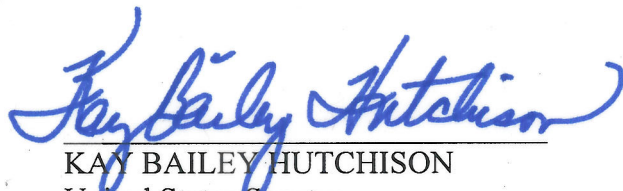
BILL NELSON  
United States Senator



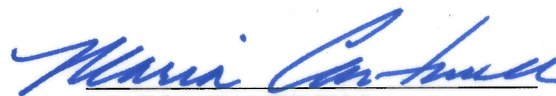
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND  
United State Senator



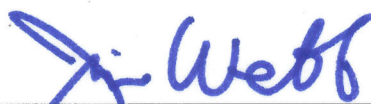
PAT ROBERTS  
United States Senator

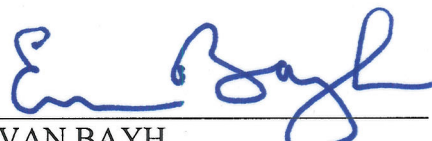


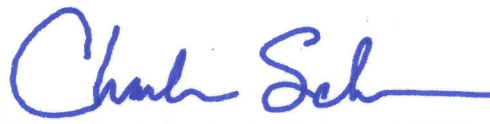
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON  
United States Senator



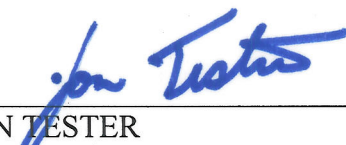
MARIA CANTWELL  
United States Senator


  
JIM WEBB  
United States Senator

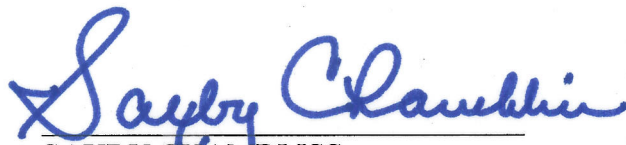
  
EVAN BAYH  
United States Senator


  
CHARLES E. SCHUMER  
United States Senator

  
JOHNNY ISAKSON  
United States Senator


  
JON TESTER  
United States Senator

  
MARK L. PRYOR  
United States Senator

  
SAXBY CHAMBLISS  
United States Senator

  
TAMMY BALDWIN  
Member of Congress

  
RICK LARSEN  
Member of Congress


  
MIKE ROGERS  
Member of Congress

  
DANIEL LIPINSKI  
Member of Congress

  
TIM RYAN  
Member of Congress

  
DORIS O. MATSUI  
Member of Congress


  
SCOTT MURPHY  
Member of Congress

  
JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress

  
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS  
Member of Congress



CHRIS SMITH  
Member of Congress



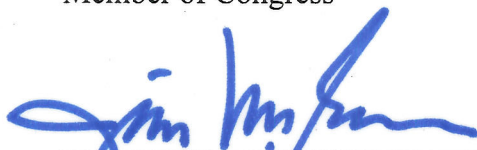
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER  
Member of Congress



JERRY MORAN  
Member of Congress



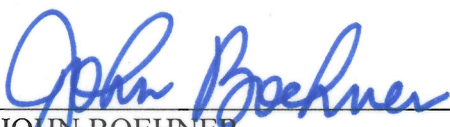
BEN CHANDLER  
Member of Congress



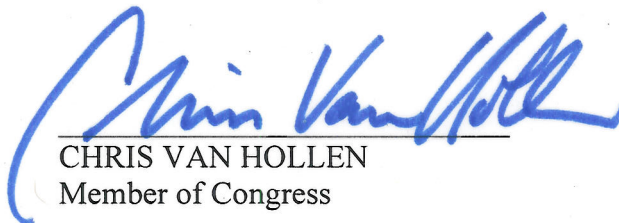
JAMES P. MCGOVERN  
Member of Congress




VIC SNYDER  
Member of Congress



JOHN BOEHNER  
Member of Congress



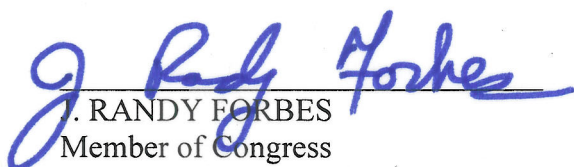
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
Member of Congress



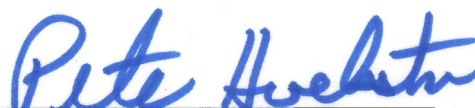
JERRY MCNERNEY  
Member of Congress



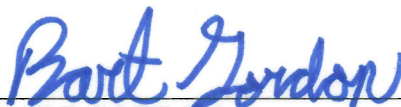
W. TODD AKIN  
Member of Congress



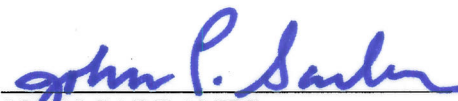
J. RANDY FORBES  
Member of Congress



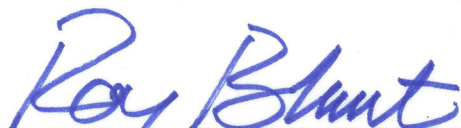
PETER HOEKSTRA  
Member of Congress



BART GORDON  
Member of Congress



JOHN SARBANES  
Member of Congress

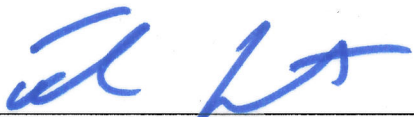


ROY BLUNT  
Member of Congress

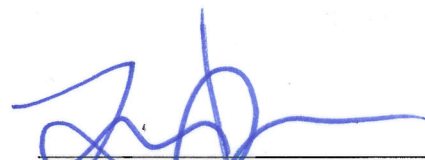


HOWARD P. MCKEON  
Member of Congress

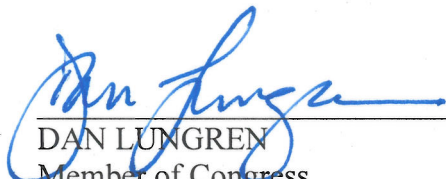




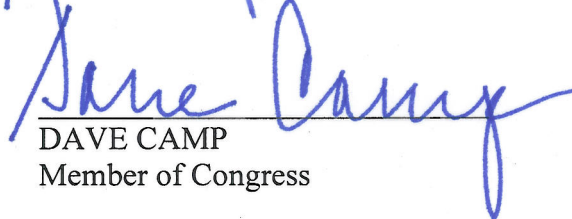
FRANK M. KRATOVIL, JR.  
Member of Congress



ZACHARY SPACE  
Member of Congress



DAN LUNGREN  
Member of Congress



DAVE CAMP  
Member of Congress



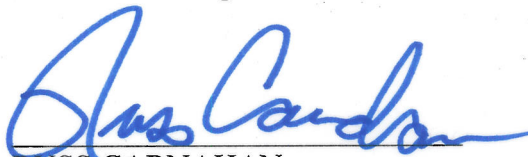
BILL FOSTER  
Member of Congress



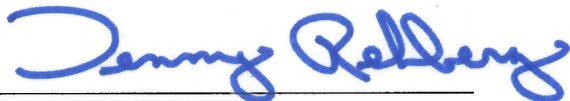
MIKE THOMPSON  
Member of Congress



ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS  
Member of Congress



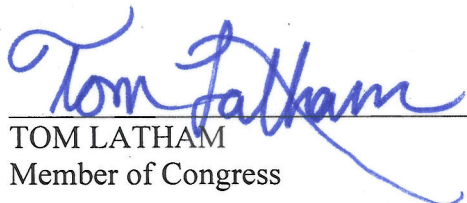
RUSS CARNAHAN  
Member of Congress



DENNY REHBERG  
Member of Congress



STEVE DRIEHAUS  
Member of Congress



TOM LATHAM  
Member of Congress



LLOYD DOGGETT  
Member of Congress

cc: Oficina de la Fiscal General de Guatemala